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Title: Need to include minority concentrated districts like Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad, Kurnool and Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh in Multi Sectoral Development Programme.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGARKURNOOL): The Ministry of Minority Affairs was created on the 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2006. Though the Ministry is very young, it is commendable that under UPA Government many initiatives are being taken for the betterment of living standards of Minority population of the country.

One of such initiative is identification of Minority Concentration districts. Under the initiative, 90 Minority Concentration districts (MCD) have been identified based on the substantial Minority population and which are relatively backward and lagging behind the national average in terms of socio-economic and basic amenities indicators based on Population figures and backwardness parameters of 2001 Census.

A Multi Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) has been formulated and approved to address the development deficits in these districts and its implementation started in 2008-2009.

In Andhra Pradesh, districts like Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad, Kurnool and Kadapa districts have sizeable population of minorities which fits into the criteria of identification as Minority concentrated district.

I request the Government of India to consider the above mentioned districts in Andhra Pradesh for inclusion in Minority Concentrated Districts so that the development deficits in these districts could be taken care of, for the Minorities.